

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2 (Canceled)

3-8 (Withdrawn)

9-10 (Canceled)

11 (Withdrawn)

12 (Canceled)

13-16 (Withdrawn)

17-21 (Canceled)

22. (New) A stent comprising:

 a stent body expandable between an un-deployed orientation and a deployed orientation, the stent body having a circumference and a longitudinal axis extending between first and second open ends;

 the stent body having a plurality of circumferential support structures, which extend generally about the circumference of the stent, the circumferential support structures being spaced-apart along the longitudinal axis;

each of the circumferential support structures including longitudinal struts interconnected at apex portions, the longitudinal struts and apex portions defining an undulating pattern, at least some of the apex portions of adjacent circumferential support structures being configured to longitudinally extend past each other when in the un-deployed configuration;

a plurality of circumferential connecting struts interconnecting at least some of the adjacent circumferential support structures, the circumferential connecting struts extending between the apex portions that extend past each other.

23. (New) The stent of claim 22, wherein the adjacent circumferential support structures include a first circumferential support structure and a second circumferential support structure that is adjacent to the first circumferential support structure, and wherein in the deployed orientation, the adjacent circumferential support structures are offset such that the apex portions on one side of the first circumferential support structure are positioned intermediate the apex portions on a facing side of the second circumferential support structure.

24. (New) The stent of claim 22, wherein at least some of the circumferential connecting struts have a width greater than a width of the longitudinal struts.

25. (New) The stent of claim 22, wherein at least some of the circumferential connecting struts have a width at least twice as great as a width of the longitudinal struts.

26. (New) The stent of claim 22, wherein at least some of the longitudinal struts have widths that taper as the at least some longitudinal struts extend along the stent body longitudinal axis.

27. (New) The stent of claim 26, wherein the circumferential support structures comprise pairs of tapered struts alternating with single, non-tapered struts.

28. (New) The stent of claim 27, wherein the pairs of tapered struts are longer than the non-tapered struts.

29. (New) The stent of claim 28, wherein the pairs of longer tapered struts are interconnected by the circumferential connecting struts.

30. (New) The stent of claim 22, wherein the adjacent circumferential support structures include a first circumferential support structure, a second circumferential support structure and a third circumferential support structure, wherein the second circumferential support structure is adjacent the first and the third circumferential support structures, and wherein the circumferential connecting struts joining the first and the second support structures extend in a first direction and the circumferential connecting struts joining the second and the third support structures extend in a second direction opposite the first direction.

31. (New) The stent of claim 22, wherein at least some of the apex portions of adjacent circumferential support structures being configured to longitudinally extend past each other when in the un-deployed configuration provide longitudinal overlap, and wherein some of the longitudinal struts are longer than other longitudinal struts, and wherein the longer longitudinal struts provide the longitudinal overlap at the apex portions.

32. (New) The stent of claim 22, wherein the circumferential connecting struts extending between the apex portions that extend past each other are angled with respect to the circumference of the stent body.

33. (New) The stent of claim 22, wherein the undulating pattern defines a wavelength, and wherein the circumferential connecting members are at least one half the length of the wavelength.

34. (New) The stent of claim 22, wherein the circumferential support structures include pairs of adjacent circumferential support structures, and the circumferential connecting members are located between only some of the pairs of the adjacent circumferential support structures.

35. (New) The stent of claim 34, wherein some of the pairs of the adjacent circumferential support structures have apex portions that oppose one another, and other pairs of adjacent circumferential support structures have apex portions that are offset from one another.

36. (New) The stent of claim 34, wherein only alternating pairs of the adjacent circumferential support structures are interconnected by the circumferential support structures.

37. (New) The stent of claim 34, wherein three consecutive circumferential support structures are interconnected by the circumferential connecting members.